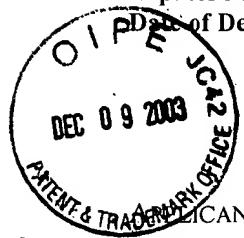


Express Mail No.: EV312715161US
Date of Deposit: December 9, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 15966-615 (CURA-115)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Prayaga et al.
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/732,436 EXAMINER: Olga N. Chernyshev
FILING DATE: December 7, 2000 ART UNIT: 1646
FOR: NOVEL POLYPEPTIDES AND POLYNUCLEOTIDES ENCODING SAME

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), applicants hereby petition for a three-month extension of time to respond to the final Office Action, mailed June 9, 2003 in the above-identified application, and file a Request for Continued Examination. With the extension, the response is due on or before December 9, 2003. A check in the amount of \$475.00, in payment of the fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(3), is enclosed herewith. The Applicants claim small entity status.

Please charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 15966-615 (CURA-115). A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

12/12/2003 DTESSM1 00000096 09732436

02 FC:2253

475.00 0P

Dated: December 9, 2003


Ivor R. Elrifi, Reg. No. 39,529
Attorney for Applicants
c/o MINTZ, LEVIN
Tel: (617) 542-6000
Fax: (617) 542-2241
Customer No. 30623